



**SAN ANTONIO**

**POLICE**

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## **Media Advisory**

### *Texting Ban – 90 Day Grace Period Begins Today*

Today, the San Antonio Police Department begins implementing the 90-day grace period on the texting ban. During this period, only warning citations will be issued.

After this period, the enforcement phase will begin with officers issuing traffic citations for this violation with a fine of up to \$200.00 per violation.

On Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, City Council passed an ordinance to prohibit the use of a hand-held mobile communications device to send, read, or write a text message, or engage in any other use of the device besides dialing telephone numbers or talking to another person, while operating a motor vehicle.

“Public safety is our mission. Curtailing distracted driving could assist in improving public safety and reducing accidents and even death”, says San Antonio Police Chief William McManus.

Councilman Philip Cortez says, “Texting and driving has become a hazard to motorists, their passengers and pedestrians. If the passage of the no texting ban makes our roads safer, I believe we are moving in the right direction in changing the culture our drivers.”

As part of informing the traveling public regarding this new law, the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will begin displaying messages like “*New Law – No Texting While Driving*” on the TransGuide Dynamic Message Signs (DMS) throughout Bexar County.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**